

REMARKS

This application has been amended in a manner that is believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 2. Claim 3 has been rewritten as an independent claim that includes all of the recitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 11 have been canceled and may be the subject of a divisional application.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by IMOTO et al. Applicants believe the present amendment obviates this rejection.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 2. As claim 2 is indicated as allowable in the outstanding Official Action, applicants believe that claim 1 and its dependent claims are also allowable. As to claim 11, claim 11 has also been canceled.

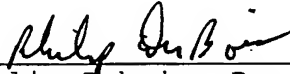
Thus, in view of the above, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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